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**The Rural District Council of Wath**  
(NORTH RIDING OF YORKSHIRE)

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# ANNUAL REPORT



OF THE  
**Medical Officer of Health**  
AND  
**Surveyor and**  
**Public Health Inspector**

FOR THE  
YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1956.



WATH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL,  
1956.

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*Chairman of the Council :*

Councillor T. ENGLISH, J.P.

*Vice-Chairman of the Council :*

Councillor G. FRANK.

*Members of the Housing, Planning and Health Committee :*

Councillor T. ENGLISH, J.P. (*Chairman*),

„ J. BROCKLEBANK, M.B.E., J.P.,

„ R. CLARK,

„ T. R. ENGLISH,

„ F. S. FOSTER,

„ G. FRANK,

„ H. KILVINGTON,

„ C. RICHARDSON,

„ T. L. STUBBS,

„ J. C. WEBSTER,

„ I. WELLS.

*Officers of the Council :*

*Clerk of the Council :*


W. C. EDEN, 7, Park Street, Ripon.

*Medical Officer of Health :*

H. GRAY, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H., Manor Road, Easingwold.

*Surveyor and Public Health Inspector :*

G. A. W. HEPPELL, 7, Park Street, Ripon.



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# ANNUAL REPORT

To the Chairman and Members  
of the Wath Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

It is my privilege to submit my Annual Report for 1956—again a healthy year and again showing some progress in housing and improvement of water supply.

Notification of infectious diseases is again very small and it appears to be entirely due to the absence of actual cases. Towards the end of the year there were a number of cases of diarrhoea and vomiting, which may have been due to Sonne Dysentery, a very common condition these days, and one which is quite often not diagnosed.

The year was notable in the commencement of immunisation against poliomyelitis and a high proportion of eligible children was registered. Full use is being made of the mobile clinic in making this service available in the Council's area.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. GRAY,

M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

## STATISTICS AND DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA.

Registrar General's estimate of resident population (Mid-1956)	...	...	...	...	...	...	3660
Number of dwellinghouses according to the Rate Book (including 48 Married Quarters)	...	...	...	...	...	...	717
Area in Acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	17007
Number of Parishes	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Rateable Value (as at 1st April, 1956)	...	...	...	...	...	...	£28,257
Estimated product of a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	£140

## VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS.				<i>Rate per 1,000 pop.</i>		
			<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>	
Legitimate	...	...	32	36	68	<i>Uncorr-</i>
Illegitimate	...	...	1	1	2	<i>ected Corr.</i>
			—	—	—	
	Total	...	33	37	70	19.1 23.8
			—	—	—	

### STILL BIRTHS.

No still-births occurred during the year.

DEATHS.				<i>Rate per 1,000 pop.</i>	
			<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Deaths from all causes			16	8	24
					6.6 9.9

*Note* :—Crude birth and death rates are corrected by means of an Area Comparability Factor supplied each year by the Registrar-General. They allow for the varying age and sex distribution of each district and enable comparisons to be made with figures for other areas and the whole country.

This year the factor for births is 1.25 and for deaths 1.50.

### MATERNAL MORTALITY.

No deaths occurred during the year due to the hazards of child-birth.

### INFANT MORTALITY.

Two deaths of children took place during the year, one under 4 weeks old and the other under a year. The infant mortality rate is 28.6 per 1,000 live births.



# CAUSES OF DEATH.

## REGISTRAR GENERAL'S RETURN.

<i>Diseases.</i>					<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>Total</i>
1.	Tuberculosis, Respiratory	...	...	...	1	-	1
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	-	-	-
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	-	-	-
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	-	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	-	-	-
6.	Meningococcal Infections	...	...	...	-	-	-
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	-	-	-
8.	Measles	...	...	...	-	-	-
9.	Other Infective and Parasitic conditions				-	-	-
10.	Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	1	-	1
11.	„ „ lung	...	...	...	-	-	-
12.	„ „ breast	...	...	...	-	-	-
13.	„ „ uterus	...	...	...	-	1	1
14.	Other malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms				1	-	1
15.	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	...	...	...	-	-	-
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	-	1	1
17.	Vascular lesions of the Nervous system	...	...	...	3	2	5
18.	Coronary disease, Angina	...	...	...	3	-	3
19.	Hypertension with Heart disease	...	...	...	-	-	-
20.	Other Heart disease	...	...	...	2	-	2
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	-	-	-
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	-	-	-
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	-	2	2
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	1	-	1
25.	Other diseases of Respiratory system	...	...	...	-	-	-
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	-	-	-
27.	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	...	...	...	-	-	-
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	...	...	-	-	-
29.	Hyperplasia of Prostate	...	...	...	1	-	1
30.	Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	...	...	...	-	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	-	-	-
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	-	1	1
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	1	-	1
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	-	1	1
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	2	-	2
36.	Homicide and operations of War	...	...	...	-	-	-
Totals					16	8	24

## NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Only four cases of notifiable disease were reported during the year. 1 pneumonia, 2 Scarlet fever and 1 tuberculosis.

## PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

### LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The Public Health Laboratory Service at the Friarage Hospital, Northallerton, under the control of the Ministry of Health, carries out bacteriological examinations of water, milk, etc.

### AMBULANCE.

The district is served by the Thirsk Ambulance Depot; Telephone—Thirsk 2234.

### DISTRICT NURSES.

District Nurses are responsible in their respective areas for Midwifery, Home Nursing, Health Visiting and School Hygiene.

The Wath Rural District is served by :—

HUTTON CONYERS, NORTON CONYERS, MELMERBY, MIDDLETON QUERNHOW AND WATH	}	Nurse Addison, Walton House, Wath. Tel. Melmerby 45.
ASENBY, BALDERSBY, RAINTON ...	}	Nurse Dixon, 34, East Lea, Topcliffe. Tel. Topcliffe 316.
DISHFORTH AND MARTON-LE MOOR	}	Nurse I. Richardson, c/o Crown Hotel, Dishforth. Tel. Topcliffe 398. <i>(Temporary only until new appoint- ment is made).</i>
CUNDALL ... ..	}	Nurse S. Savage, c/o Miss Wheatley, Myton-on-Swale.
RELIEF ... ..	}	Nurse G. Halliday, " Hillside," Asenby, Tel. Topcliffe 335.



## DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE.

A scheme operates under Section 29 of the National Health Service Act to give domestic help. Assistance up to 44 hours in any week can be provided, with priority to domiciliary confinements. The maximum charge is 3/- per hour, but many cases pay less than this, the cost being based on income and family expenses.

The service is administered from the Area Health Office, Easingwold.

Telephone--Easingwold 324.

## INFANT WELFARE CLINICS.

The Mobile Clinic makes visits to the area as follows :—

Dishforth R.A.F. Station ... Alternate Mondays at 2 p.m.

Dishforth Village ... Every four weeks—on Monday at 10-15 a.m.

Wath Village ... Every four weeks—on Tuesday at 10-15 a.m.

## CARE OF THE AGED, WELFARE, PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, ETC.

The Medical Officer is responsible for the day-to-day administration of these services by virtue of his appointment with the County Council. The District Welfare Officer is stationed at the Area Health Office at Easingwold and he maintains full co-operation with the Medical Officer.

## VOLUNTARY CARE COMMITTEE.

The Committee meets quarterly at Easingwold and provides from County Council funds assistance to persons suffering from tuberculosis. Free milk is provided to those cases nursed at home on the recommendations of the Chest Physician.

**Annual Report**  
**OF THE**  
**Surveyor and**  
**Public Health Inspector**  
**FOR 1956.**

To the Chairman and Members of the Wath Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

It is my privilege once again to submit my Report on the working of the Department during 1956.

Steady, all-round progress was made in the improvements to water supplies, the preparation of sewerage schemes, the improvement of existing houses and the building of bungalows. Specific information on each of these subjects is given separately.

I hope that the information contained in this Report will be useful to the members of the Council and will in small measure reflect the progressive manner in which the Council endeavours to discharge its many and varied functions.

I wish to express my appreciation of the friendliness and co-operation shown to me by both the members of the Council and their other officials since my appointment.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

G. A. W. HEPPELL,

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector.

STATISTICS.

The table below sets out the acreage, number of dwellinghouses and estimated population of each parish in the rural district.

The number of houses is an actual count from the Rate Book and includes a small number of houses which are subject to Orders under the Housing Act and which are at present unoccupied, in addition to married quarters on a service aerodrome.

The population is estimated by the Registrar-General for mid-1956. It shows an average of 3.76 persons per house.

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Acreage</i>	<i>Number Houses</i>	<i>Estimated Population</i>
Asenby	... 1,179	57	214
Baldersby	... 1,831	76	287
Cundall	... 2,052	35	132
Dishforth	... 1,765	151 (inc. 48 Married Quarters)	1528 (inc. 960 Service personnel)
Hutton Conyers	... 3,212	53	199
Marton-le-Moor	... 1,679	48	181
Melmerby	... 1,139	86	324
Middleton Quernhow	... 763	26	98
Norton Conyers	... 1,042	17	64
Rainton	... 1,578	104	392
Wath	... 767	64	241
	<hr/> 17,007 <hr/>	<hr/> 717 <hr/>	<hr/> 3660 <hr/>

## WATER SUPPLIES.

A start was made towards the close of the year on the four inch main linking together the Melmerby and Baldersby St. James sources of supply. This will materially improve the reliability of the system and will mean that 35% of the houses in the area will no longer be dependent solely on one source of supply.

A piped supply of water is available to all villages and hamlets in the area and only 20 houses in the area are without a pure public or private supply of water. These are isolated properties which cannot be served economically by any of our existing supplies.

A visit was made during the Autumn by the Senior Engineering Inspector of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government as part of the survey of water supplies in the North Riding. The purpose of the survey is to make recommendations for forming larger water supply areas and reducing the number of undertakings. It is difficult to see how this rural district could be fitted into a wider scheme without a decrease in the efficiency and an increase in the cost of the service.



The following table shows the number of houses supplied with water from the various sources :—

PARISH	NO. OF HOUSES	SOURCE OF MAINS SUPPLY									PRIVATE SOURCES		
		Direct by Thirsk WW.	Melmerby	Baldersby St. James	Cundall bulk Supply	Dishforth bulk Supply	Hutton Conyers	Marton-le-Moor	Middleton Quernhow	Wath	Direct by Bedale R.D.C.	Direct by Ripon Corp.	Boreholes
Asenby	57	46	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	4
Baldersby	76	—	50	22	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3
Cundall	35	3	—	—	30	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Dishforth	151	54	—	—	—	94	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Hutton Conyers	53	—	8	—	—	—	27	—	—	—	2	10	6
Marton-le-Moor	48	—	—	—	—	—	—	44	—	—	—	3	1
Melmerby	86	—	85	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Middleton Quernhow	26	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	—	—	11	1
Norton Conyers	17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	16	—	—
Rainton	104	—	—	86	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	—
Wath	64	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	53	—	2	—	3
Totals	717	103	149	108	34	94	27	44	11	54	2	40	33

The figures above include certain houses which are served by stand-pipe and which do not have a piped supply in the house. They are : 4 at Asenby, 3 at Baldersby, 1 at Dishforth, 3 at Hutton Conyers, 5 at Marton-le-Moor, 1 at Melmerby, 5 at Rainton and 1 at Wath.

The table opposite shows the number of houses supplied from the various sources. 621 houses (86.6%) have a piped supply of water in the house, 23 houses (3.2%) have a stand-pipe supply and 73 houses (10.2%) obtain water from other sources.

#### SOURCES OF SUPPLY.

The Council derive water from three boreholes and two groups of springs. The total yield from these sources is :—

Melmerby, springs	...	50,760	gallons per day.
Hutton Conyers, spring	...	10,000	„ „
Baldersby St. James, borehole		175,000	„ „
Wath, borehole	...	15,000	„ „
Marton-le-Moor, borehole	...	25,000	„ „
Total		...	275,760

Our records show that the consumption from various sources declined compared with 1955. This was probably due to the wet summer in contrast to the fine, dry summer of 1955.

Almost nineteen million gallons of water were supplied during the year at a cost of approximately 2/5d. per thousand gallons.

So far as I can ascertain, the consumption from the various sources during the year was—

				Galls, per day
Melmerby	8,031,000	galls. equivalent to		22,003
Hutton Conyers	... 826,000	„ „		2,263
Baldersby St. James	... 3,347,200	„ „		9,170
Wath	... 1,198,886	„ „		3,285
Marton-le-Moor	... 1,329,600	„ „		1,662
Cundall (Bulk supply)	1,909,000	„ „		5,230
Dishforth do.	... 2,099,000	„ „		5,750
Total ... 18,740,686 galls.				49,363

#### WATER ANALYSES.

Regular checks were made on the purity of the Council's sources of supply and of private supplies. Of the 54 samples taken from the public mains all but one were satisfactory. The unsatisfactory sample occurred after a burst main.

1 sample out of 15 taken from private supplies was found to be unfit and the owner and occupier advised to take precautions.



## DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

No new lengths of sewer have been laid during the year.

An Engineering Inquiry into the proposed scheme for Rainton took place during the Autumn and the scheme approved. No starting date was given in view of the restriction on capital expenditure.

The site for the proposed works at Baldersby was agreed and a scheme prepared for submission to the Ministry.

With the exception of Wath and Melmerby, sewage from the houses in the villages finds its way via the sewers into open gutters with only a small amount of tank treatment. 15 small tanks and 1,397 yards of watercourse are cleaned out by the Council.

The improvement in water supplies throughout the district, together with a considerable improvement in the standards of housing has resulted in increasing pollution of these open gutters and a progressive deterioration is bound to result.

## HOUSING.

### COUNCIL HOUSING.

On the 1st January, 1956, the Council owned 103 houses, 18 pre-war and 85 post-war. During the year 4 bungalows were completed at Rainton, 2 at Hutton Conyers and 2 at Marton-le-Moor, bringing the total to 111.

The houses are situate as follows :—

Asenby	...	9	Hutton Conyers	6
Baldersby	...	6	Marton-le-Moor ...	12
Cundall	...	4	Melmerby	... 24
Dishforth	...	26	Rainton	... 14
			Wath	... 10

The policy of building a small number of bungalows in each village continued and at the end of the year 5 were under construction at Dishforth and 2 at Cundall. A site for 3 bungalows was being sought at Baldersby and a tender accepted for 3 at Melmerby.

The abolition of Exchequer grants for all but slum clearance does mean that the Council will have to concentrate more on re-housing persons in sub-standard (Category 5) houses.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

The improvement of houses with the aid of grants under the Housing Act, 1949, continued. 12 applications were received and approved. Work was completed on 11 and 1 was in progress.

Since the inception of the scheme assistance has been given to the improvement of 28 houses and works have been completed on 27 of these.

HOUSING (FINANCIAL PROVISIONS) ACT, 1938.

Two houses for agricultural workers, erected by a private person with the aid of grant, were completed during the year at Melmerby.

HOUSING ACT, 1936.

Some progress was made in dealing with sub-standard houses in the area. Of the 61 houses in Category 5 not yet dealt with, Closing Orders were made on 2 and undertakings not to re-let given on 2 more. The tenant of one of these houses was re-housed by the Council.

Informal action under the Public Health and Housing Acts resulted in defects being remedied in 27 houses.

AMENITIES IN HOUSES.

Continued progress has been made in the provision of baths and water-closets in the houses in the rural district. The table shows that 64% of houses in the area are provided with a bath, 71% have a water-closet, 22% a privy and 7% a pail closet.

SANITARY CONVENIENCES.

Parish	Total Number of Houses	Closet Accommodation			Baths
		Pails	Privies	Water Closets	
Asenby ..	57	5	19	33	34
Baldersby ..	76	9	32	35	39
Cundall ..	35	4	12	19	20
Dishforth ..	151	4	12	135	115
Hutton Conyers ..	53	3	12	38	34
Marton-le-Moor ..	48	2	13	33	24
Melmerby ..	86	—	4	82	62
Middleton Quernhow ..	26	1	10	15	15
Norton Conyers ..	17	5	7	5	12
Rainton ..	104	7	30	67	58
Wath ..	64	3	9	52	49
Totals ..	717	43	160	514	462

## SUPERVISION AND INSPECTION OF FOOD.

### MILK AND DAIRIES.

There are 11 retailers of milk in the area registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949—1954. Four of these have premises outside the area. Conditions generally are satisfactory.

Action was taken with regard to a sample of milk found to be affected with brucella abortus.

### MEAT.

There are no slaughterhouses in the area and only one butcher's shop. Most of the meat is retailed from vans operating from outside the district. The condition of these vans generally was found to be good.

### ICE CREAM.

3 shops in the area are licensed to retail ice-cream. All obtain ice-cream pre-packed from large manufacturers and retail it as received. Several vans from outside the area also retail in the district. There are no manufacturing premises.

### FOOD SHOPS.

There are seven general food shops, eight licensed premises and three cafes in the area to which the new Food Hygiene Regulations apply. Conditions generally are fair, although the amount and variety of goods stocked in limited space in the village stores makes it well-nigh impossible to achieve a high standard. The mobile shops operating in the area are well-equipped and maintained. This is not the case, however, with some of the small vans which have insufficient space to protect their contents in a satisfactory manner.

## RODENT CONTROL.

Inspection of premises, advice and treatment where necessary continued during the year. There is little evidence of infestation by rats.

Routine inspection and treatment of the Council's sewerage systems took place.

## PUBLIC CLEANSING.

A fortnightly collection of domestic refuse by contract was maintained throughout the year. Difficulties arose at the latter end of the year, and a new contractor took over. The possibility of undertaking the work by direct labour was considered, but was not proceeded with due to the relatively high cost.



## FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Although we have no large works in the area, seventeen premises are classed as factories. They are :—

- 6 Agricultural engineers
- 1 Electrical engineer
- 3 Automobile engineers
- 1 Sawmill
- 1 Grain-drying plant
- 5 Joiners

—  
17  
—

Conditions were quite good in these premises, which were all visited during the year. A defective water-closet was repaired at one work-place and a new water-closet is to be provided at another following requests to the occupiers.

The information required by the Minister of Labour under the Act is as follows :—

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspec- tions	Written notices	Prosecu- tions
i. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are enforced by the Local Authority	13	22	—	—
ii. Factories not included in (i) above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	4	7	—	—
iii. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	—	—	—	—
Total ..	17	29	—	—

So far as is known there are no outworkers resident in the area.

# SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS AND VISITS DURING 1956.

Housing inspections under Housing and Public Health Acts	54
Housing re-inspections ... ..	40
Housing survey ... ..	9
Inspections and re-inspections re nuisances ... ..	30
Buildings under construction ... ..	114
Water supplies ... ..	477
Sewerage and sewage disposal... ..	109
Drainage ... ..	102
Shops and food premises ... ..	54
Dairies ... ..	5
Housing management and repair ... ..	336
Housing sites ... ..	32
Dykes and watercourses ... ..	31
Cesspools and sewage tanks ... ..	17
Factories ... ..	29
Rodent Control ... ..	38
Temporary dwellings and caravans ... ..	16
Miscellaneous meetings and interviews ... ..	125
Housing Act—Improvement Grants ... ..	71
Petroleum Stores ... ..	7
Infectious diseases ... ..	7
Samples—milk ... ..	9
Samples—water ... ..	69
Refuse collection... ..	30
<hr/>	
Total ...	1811
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